

**An Analysis for Policy Consideration Regarding Legislation for Mandatory School Choice
Participation for State of Michigan Local Education Authorities**

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REVIEW OF THE ISSUE

State of Michigan Governor Rick Snyder is proceeding with plans to further promote K-12 student choice in public schools. Choice may be loosely defined as the students ability to attend the public school of their liking, be it at one of Michigan's roughly 550 traditional public school districts (technically Local Education Authorities or LEA's) or one of the 260+ public charter schools (technically Public School Academies or PSA's). Gov. Snyder stated explicitly:

Today, I am proposing a new Any Time, Any Place, Any Way, Any Pace public school learning model. Michigan's state foundation allowance should not be exclusively tied to the school district a child attends. Instead, funding needs to follow the student...

A model of proficiency-based funding rather than seat time requirements will foster more free market ideas for public schools in Michigan. This includes mandatory schools of choice for every public school district. Providing open access to a quality education without boundaries is essential. Resident students in every district should have first choice to enroll, but no longer should school districts be allowed to opt out from accepting out-of-district students. In the event more out-of-district students wish to enroll than space allows, the school should conduct a random lottery to determine acceptance. I will propose legislation to accomplish this change.

The premise of the proposed change is that Michigan public schools "are not giving our taxpayers, our teachers, or our students the return on investment we deserve," citing standardized test performance (ACT, MME, MEAP and NAEP) as the basis for this conclusion.

Others espousing support for the "borderless school" or "mandated choice" (depending your preference) have cited No Child Left Behind results, showing 715 of the state's 3,437 schools not making Adequate Yearly Progress that are also based on standardized test results.

The argument for Gov. Snyder's proposal, therefore, posits that increasing student choice, along with a variety of other reforms will yield better performance on standardized tests and therefore a better return on taxpayer dollars invested.

The data presented herein does not argue against Schools of Choice, but rather uses data to demonstrate families, LEAs, and PSAs are already embracing choice. In fact student enrollment in PSAs and/or LEA based choice programs has trended up substantially in the last several years, leaving many puzzled as to why the governor seeks legislation to mandate choice when organic market participation is yielding such results. Data analysis questions the claim that Michigan students are "trapped."

The premise of the argument also merits attention. The Great Recession endured by Michigan families has yielded a significantly increased economically distressed student population, which correlates to standardized test performance. Also, the unique needs of special education students are served disproportionately by LEAs over PSAs, a data point deserving policy consideration. Test performance by students with special needs is the most common cause for AYP failure among Michigan schools.

Lastly, the intended consequence providing individual student choice is logically adversely affecting already challenged school districts, particularly larger urban districts. The \$440M in combined deficit is a problem only getting worse.

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PRIMARY CONCERNS AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING MANDATORY SCHOOL OF CHOICE LEGISLATION

The data compiled herein supports the following positions:

1. **REGARDING CHOICE:** Student choice for K12 education in Michigan is at an all time and high continues to grow. Student choice based on both PSA and LEA enrollment has increased 70% since 2002.
2. **REGARDING LOCAL CONTROL:** Without a mandate, 98% of LEAs participate in School of Choice programs to varying degrees. The 82% frequently quoted comprehends only state Section 105 and 105c and disregards ISD based Choice programs, whose popularity is increasing rapidly, particularly as budgets have tightened.
3. **REGARDING CAPACITY:** Michigan's K-12 enrollment is down 7.3% from 2004 to 2010 and districts have reduced teaching staff in even greater proportion. Student to teacher ratio has increased statewide with steeper climbs among larger districts. DPS's has increased from 25.4 to 30.0. The data proves districts reduce capacity as enrollment drops. Teaching staff levels in relation to students is the primary determinant of capacity.
4. **REGARDING CLASS SIZE:** Data clearly shows that districts who accept higher numbers of School Choice students have higher student to teacher ratios. This yields a favorable economic benefit to the state and district, but this is decidedly negative pattern to Michigan families who prefer smaller class sizes and/or more course options in the face of increased graduation requirements.
5. **REGARDING DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** In 2011 39% of all DPS eligible students opted into another LEA or PSA across an astounding 182 districts. DPS students clearly have, and take advantage of, ample choice. Meanwhile, DPS has lost the market opportunity equivalent of \$370M+ per year and has fallen deeper into debt. The data doesn't support the claim that students are trapped.
6. **REGARDING PERFORMANCE ON STANDARDIZED TEST:** While not an excuse for substandard performance, analysis establishes that students of lower socio-economic status do not perform as well on standardized test. In the last seven years, Michigan's Free and Reduced Lunch Enrollment population has increased nearly 20% despite sharp declines in enrollment.
7. **REGARDING SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS:** LEAs enroll proportionally 25% more students with special education needs in comparison to PSA enrollment. The "Students with Disabilities" subgroup performance on standardized tests is the single largest contributor to schools not making Adequate Yearly Progress. Adverse selection, in the face of higher stakes, is of great concern to the families of 13% of the state's K-12 parent population facing this challenge.
8. **REGARDING ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CHOICE ON URBAN DISTRICTS:** Certainly poor academic performance in urban districts, along with other factors, is promoting LEA and PSA choice in large volumes. The economic aftermath of this exodus of students further inhibits the ability to compete to regain these thousands of lost students. The state must confront this tug-of-war between the needs of the individual students who leave compared with the impact on the greater number of students who remain in a district further financially strained.

All data presented in this document is sourced from the Michigan Department of Education, primarily Bulletin 1014, Non-Resident Student Research Tool, Special Education Counts Report, State of Michigan AYP report, and other related reports published on www.michigan.gov

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Table 1: Change in number of Michigan school districts from 2004 to 2010. Larger districts have dropped in classification and newer PSA's are driving increased volumes at lower level classifications – actually increasing the number of educational authorities.

Enrollment Range	State Classification	# of MI Districts - 2004	# of MI Districts - 2010	Change
50,000+	A	1	1	0
20k to 49.9k	B	3	1	(2)
10k to 19.9k	C	22	21	(1)
5k to 9.9k	D	51	49	(2)
4.5k to 4.9k	E	10	11	1
4k to 4.49k	F	15	6	(9)
3.5k to 3.9k	G	17	20	3
3k to 3.49k	H	36	33	(3)
2.5k to 2.9k	I	35	38	3
2k to 2.49k	J	55	37	(18)
1.5k to 1.99k	K	58	75	17
1k to 1,49k	L	99	97	(2)
0.5k to .99k	M	128	156	28
Below 500	N	214	238	24
TOTAL		744	783	39

Table 2: As student enrollment declined, teacher reductions followed at a higher rate as evidenced by higher pupil to teacher ratios in all but two classifications. This data debunks the charge that declining enrollment creates excess capacity. School boards staff in accordance to enrollment. As enrollment has declined in the last several years, thousands of teachers have either been laid off or not replaced after retiring.

State Class.	Student Enrollment			K-12 Teacher FTE's			Student to Teacher Ratio		
	2004	2010	Change	2004	2010	Change	2004	2010	Change
A	152,199	84,742	(67,457)	5,993	2,826	(3,167)	25.4	30.0	4.6
B	73,805	29,727	(44,078)	3,004	1,155	(1,849)	24.6	25.7	1.2
C	298,211	294,737	(3,474)	13,586	12,525	(1,061)	22.0	23.5	1.6
D	337,468	323,833	(13,634)	15,367	14,134	(1,233)	22.0	22.9	1.0
E	48,317	51,566	3,249	1,996	2,103	106	24.2	24.5	0.3
F	63,112	25,385	(37,726)	2,673	971	(1,702)	23.6	26.2	2.5
G	62,999	75,660	12,660	2,738	3,314	576	23.0	22.8	(0.2)
H	117,291	107,702	(9,588)	5,250	4,553	(697)	22.3	23.7	1.3
I	95,647	105,898	10,251	4,368	4,631	263	21.9	22.9	1.0
J	121,506	84,466	(37,041)	5,670	3,689	(1,980)	21.4	22.9	1.5
K	99,443	129,761	30,319	4,272	5,793	1,521	23.3	22.4	(0.9)
L	123,124	119,904	(3,220)	5,878	5,496	(382)	20.9	21.8	0.9
M	90,971	114,318	23,347	4,612	5,598	986	19.7	20.4	0.7
N	49,927	58,272	8,345	2,743	3,207	465	18.2	18.2	0.0
TOTAL	1,734,019	1,605,971	(128,048)	78,148	69,994	(8,155)	22.2	22.9	0.8

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Table 3: As enrollment declined state expenditure per pupil, even on a nominal basis, dropped nearly three quarters of a billion in six years. Smaller districts' per pupil revenue from the state is now surpassing that of larger districts. Meanwhile student selection patterns reflect movement from larger to smaller districts, often moving from LEAs to PSAs.

State Class.	State Revenue			State Revenue per Pupil		
	2004	2010	Change	2004	2010	Change
A	\$1,119,522,325	\$609,711,443	(\$509,810,882)	\$7,356	\$7,195	(\$161)
B	\$481,095,071	\$190,252,340	(\$290,842,731)	\$6,518	\$6,400	(\$118)
C	\$1,774,834,902	\$1,805,792,090	\$30,957,188	\$5,952	\$6,127	\$175
D	\$2,007,608,795	\$1,948,217,860	(\$59,390,935)	\$5,949	\$6,016	\$67
E	\$305,558,284	\$334,010,168	\$28,451,884	\$6,324	\$6,477	\$153
F	\$379,922,039	\$149,868,581	(\$230,053,458)	\$6,020	\$5,904	(\$116)
G	\$378,617,453	\$459,012,510	\$80,395,057	\$6,010	\$6,067	\$57
H	\$709,822,577	\$681,263,043	(\$28,559,534)	\$6,052	\$6,325	\$274
I	\$568,939,504	\$645,685,847	\$76,746,343	\$5,948	\$6,097	\$149
J	\$727,436,715	\$487,233,511	(\$240,203,204)	\$5,987	\$5,768	(\$218)
K	\$599,421,569	\$800,219,009	\$200,797,440	\$6,028	\$6,167	\$139
L	\$743,325,383	\$738,093,460	(\$5,231,923)	\$6,037	\$6,156	\$119
M	\$565,781,655	\$702,833,750	\$137,052,095	\$6,219	\$6,148	(\$71)
N	\$319,239,257	\$390,189,284	\$70,950,027	\$6,394	\$6,696	\$302
TOTAL	\$10,681,125,528	\$9,942,382,896	(\$738,742,632)	\$6,160	\$6,191	\$31

Table 4: School of Choice options and enrollment have increased in every metric, substantially so. Frequent reference to 82% LEA participation in School of Choice fails to recognize ISD level school choice programs, participation in which exceeds state 105c participation, logically based on geography alone. Student choice participation has increased 70% in this period of time, without legislation. The allure of per pupil revenue gains has prompted a high degree of participation among LEAs.

LEA School of Choice Participation from 2002 to 2010						
	2002		2010		Percentage Change	
	# of Districts	# of Students	# of Districts	# of Students	Districts	Students
ISD Level Choice	370	29,529	542	44,430	46.5%	60.6%
Section 105	362	32,850	412	72,989	13.8%	122.2%
Section 105c	250	6,553	332	17,371	32.8%	165.1%

Table 5: Both LEAs and PSAs present choice options for students and enrollment in both categories has increased significantly for nearly 10 years despite lower enrollment statewide. Trends show no sign of abatement.

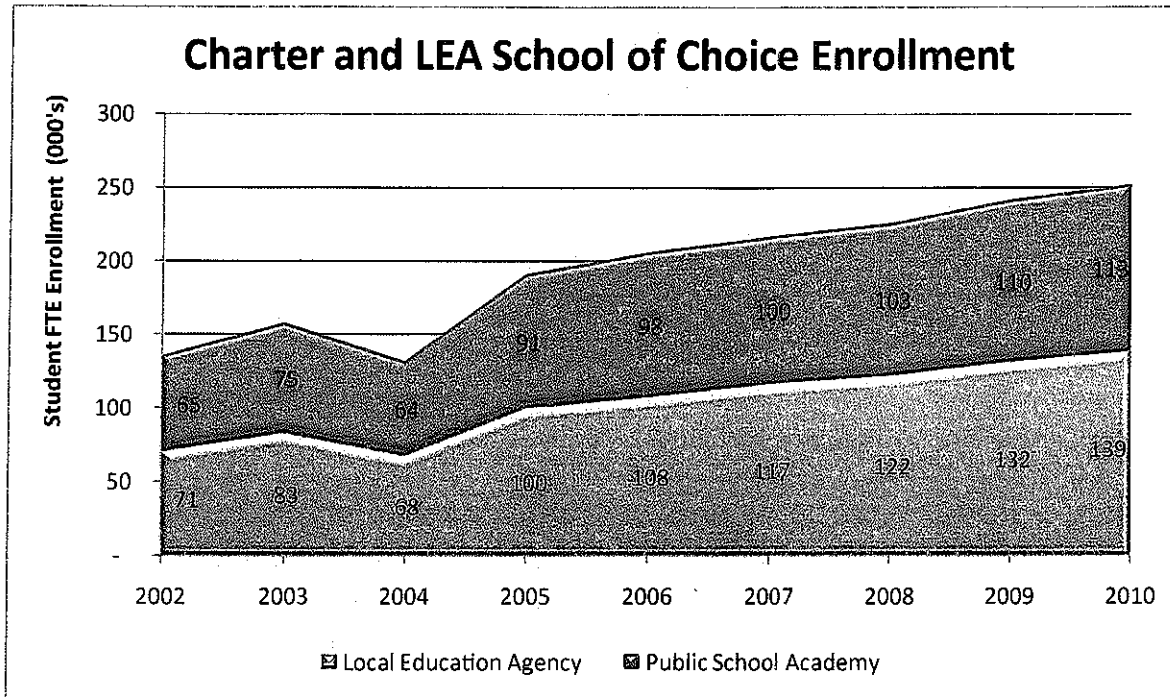
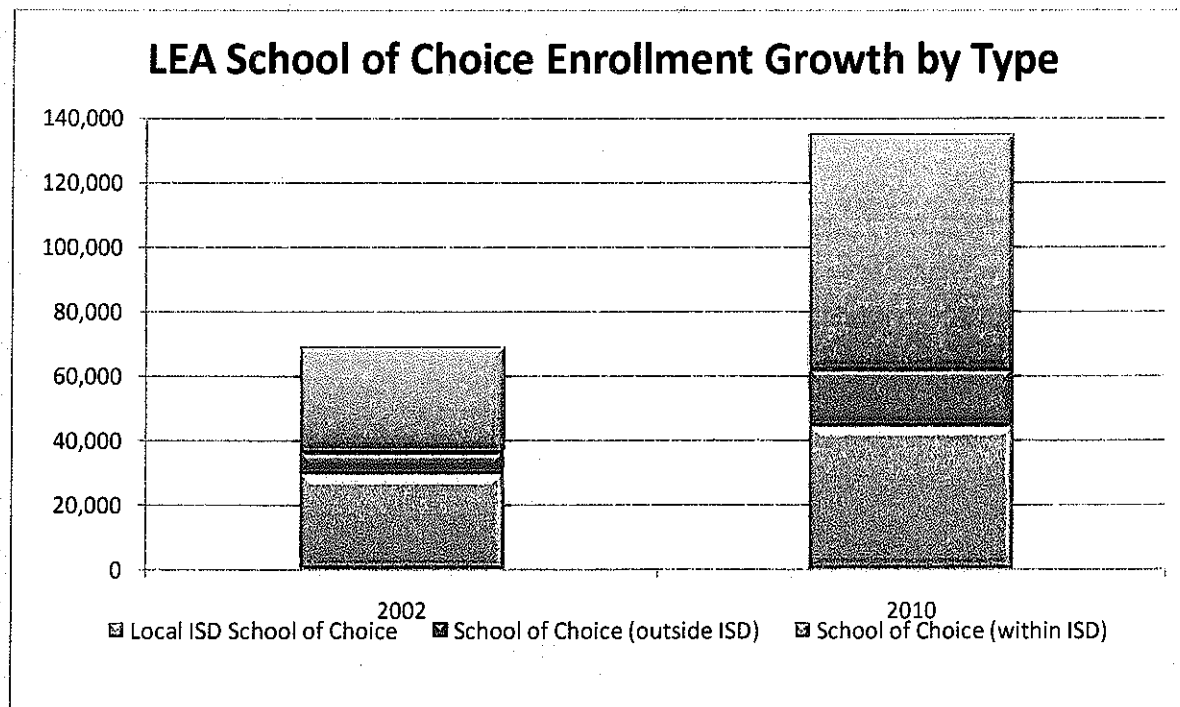


Table 6: Among just LEAs, the three primary choice categories have all grown. The "All Other Non-Resident" is ISD level school choice programs as opposed to Section 105 and 105c. 98% of all LEAs participate in school choice to some degree.



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Table 7: The 92 districts below that do not participate in the state 105 and 105c school choice provision all participate in Local ISD school choice programs, leaving just 10 state districts who do not participate in student choice of any kind.

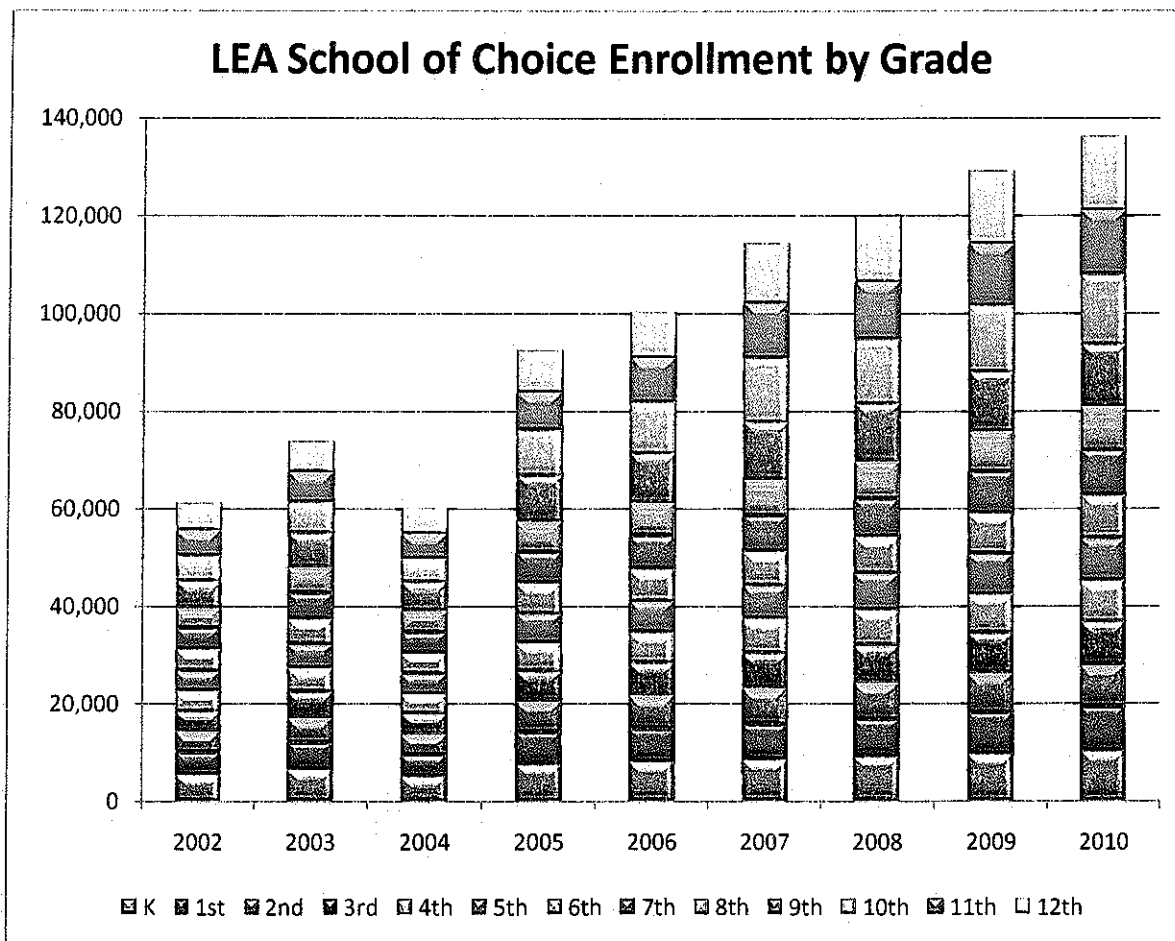
Grand Rapids Public Schools	1,112	Dundee Community Schools	141
Bendle Public Schools	988	Mancelona Public Schools	131
Forest Hills Public Schools	956	St. Johns Public Schools	124
Northview Public School District	917	Whiteford Agricultural Schools	123
Wyoming Public Schools	874	Lakewood Public Schools	120
Zeeland Public Schools	685	Belding Area School District	114
Kelloggsville Public Schools	613	Jefferson Schools (Monroe)	111
Godwin Heights Public Schools	608	Vestaburg Community Schools	107
Caledonia Community Schools	580	Carson City-Crystal Area Schools	106
Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools	533	Dearborn City School District	105
Grandville Public Schools	522	Harbor Springs School District	102
Spring Lake Public Schools	466	Lakeview Community Schools (Montcalm)	102
Livonia Public Schools	451	Muskegon Heights School District	99
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools	434	Bedford Public Schools	94
Clio Area School District	434	Mason Consolidated Schools (Monroe)	87
Kenowa Hills Public Schools	431	Rochester Community School District	83
Lowell Area Schools	428	Atherton Community Schools	81
Rockford Public Schools	423	Charlevoix Public Schools	80
Comstock Park Public Schools	422	Portland Public School District	77
Kentwood Public Schools	392	Bellaire Public Schools	69
Bloomfield Hills School District	387	Lake Orion Community Schools	69
Sparta Area Schools	357	Montabella Community Schools	66
North Muskegon Public Schools	351	Trenton Public Schools	65
Grand Blanc Community Schools	342	Hart Public School District	64
Coopersville Area Public School District	327	Beecher Community School District	60
Northville Public Schools	318	Alpena Public Schools	58
Cedar Springs Public Schools	291	Bentley Community Schools	56
East Grand Rapids Public Schools	290	Westwood Heights Schools	54
Carman-Ainsworth Comm. Schools	288	Nottawa Community School	52
Muskegon City School District	269	Summerfield School District	45
Ida Public School District	265	Excelsior Township S/D #1	40
Ionia Public Schools	253	Novi Community School District	37
Grant Public School District	243	Pellston Public Schools	37
Byron Center Public Schools	236	Berlin Township S/D #3	26
Comstock Public Schools	235	New Haven Community Schools	26
Greenville Public Schools	225	Kalamazoo Public School District	21
Kearsley Community Schools	221	Grosse Pointe Public Schools	17
Holland City School District	208	Frankenmuth School District	16
District of the City of Birmingham	198	Freeland Community School District	16
Central Montcalm Public Schools	196	Dexter Community School District	15

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Centreville Public Schools	191	Oakridge Public Schools	14
Flint City School District	186	Chelsea School District	12
Allendale Public School District	175	Grant Township S/D #2	5
Kent City Community Schools	167	Easton Township S/D #6	3
Saranac Community Schools	159	Ionia Township S/D #2	2
Coldwater Community Schools	148	Vanderbilt Area Schools	1

Table 8: Many LEAs introduce choice at lower elementary levels. Over the last 8 years, however, as these students progress, fairly proportional volumes of School of Choice students are distributed across all grades.



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Table 9: Some have claimed that students in certain districts are "trapped" on account of a lack of choice, but the data does not support that conclusion in DPS' case. 39% of all DPS eligible K-12 students enrolled across 182 different LEAs and PSAs in 2010, up 64% from 2002 levels. 50 additional LEAs and PSAs now serve DPS resident students in comparison to 2002.

Year	Total Eligible Enrollment	Actual Enrollment	DPS Eligible Students choosing other LEAs/PSAs	# of Other LEAs/PSAs Enrolling DPS Students	% of Students Choosing Other LEAs/PSAs
2002	196,621	163,702	32,919	132	16.7%
2010	138,952	84,742	54,210	182	39.0%
Change	-29.3%	-48.2%	64.7%	37.9%	133.0%

Table 10: Among LEAs participating on School of Choice programs, the data suggests that the higher the number of incoming school of choice students the higher the ratio of students to teacher, suggesting larger class sizes and/or reduced course options.

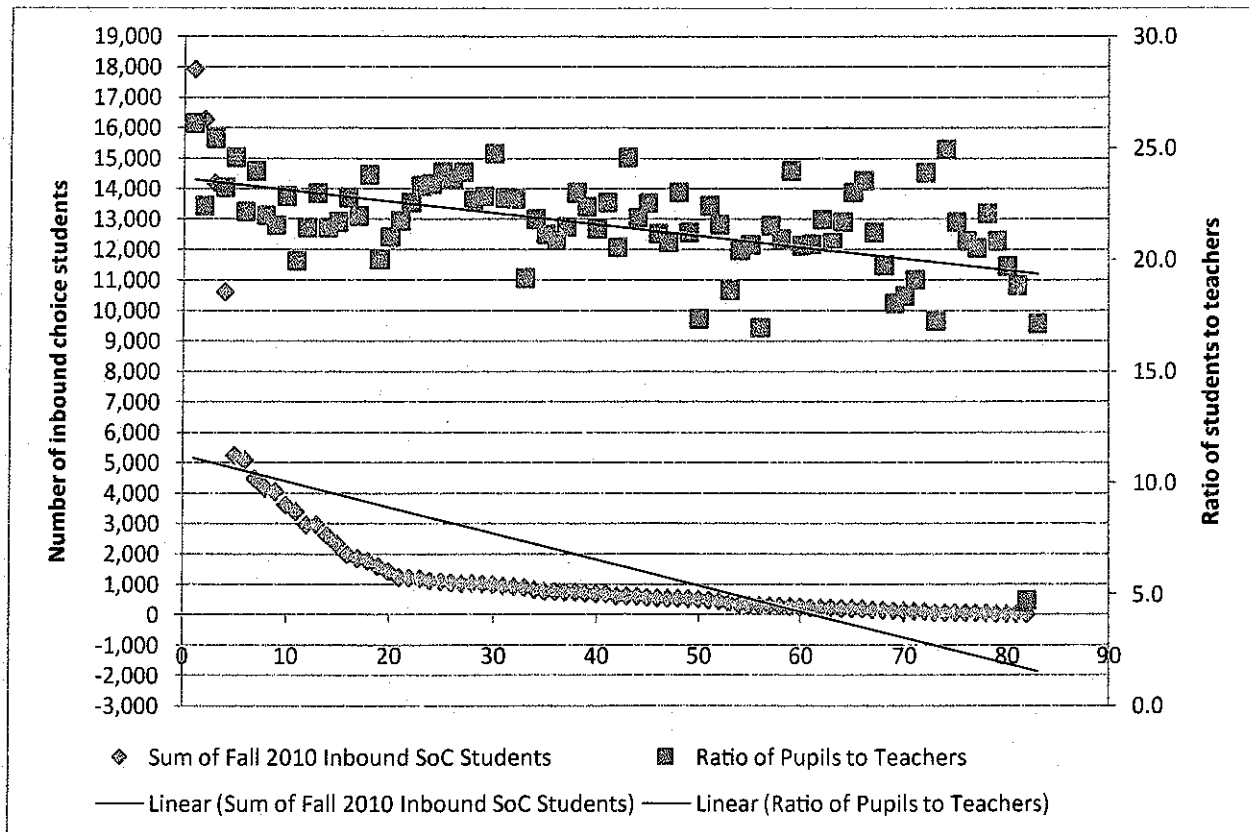


Table 11: Standardized test results consistently scale to student socioeconomic status, including the 2010 9th grade MEAP. This chart sorted the schools' Free and Reduced Lunch Enrollment percentage and compared it to percentage of 9th graders deemed "Not Proficient" on the MEAP.

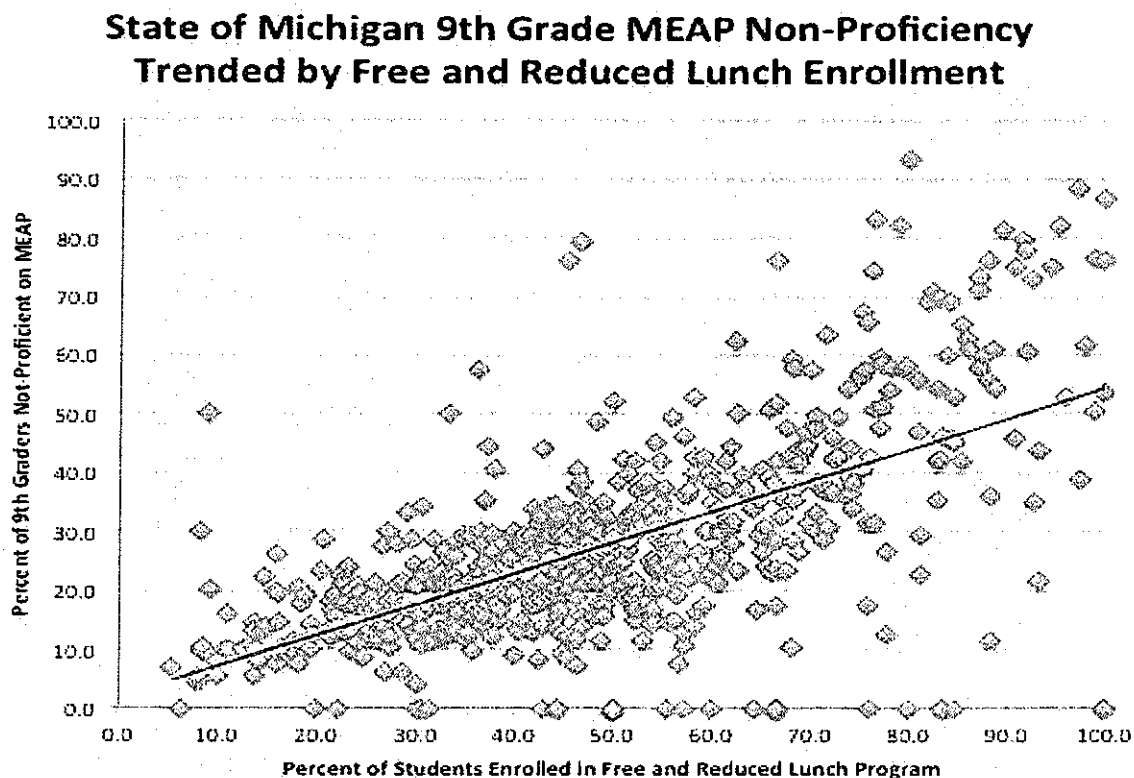


Table 12: Considering Michigan's dramatic increase in economically distressed families resulting from the Great Recession, ensuing effect on standardized test results is highly likely. Concerns regarding the state's "poor return on investment," if judged only by standardized test results, must comprehend this reality. Despite a student population 9.2% below 2003 levels, state LEAs and PSAs serve 19.7% more FRLE students.

Year	Student Enrollment	FRLE Students	Percent FRLE Students
2003	1,704,141	587,895	34.5%
2010	1,560,165	731,823	46.9%
% Change	-9.2%	19.7%	26.5%

Table 13: In further reference to poor return on education investment, NCLB and AYP are oft cited statistics. Just over 700 MI schools did not make AYP. Since some schools had multiple reasons, there were 1,300 instances of AYP failure. Among

LEAs the leading instance of failure to make AYP is test results among the students with disabilities subgroup. As the ensuing chart indicates, LEAs serve a significantly larger proportion of this student population.

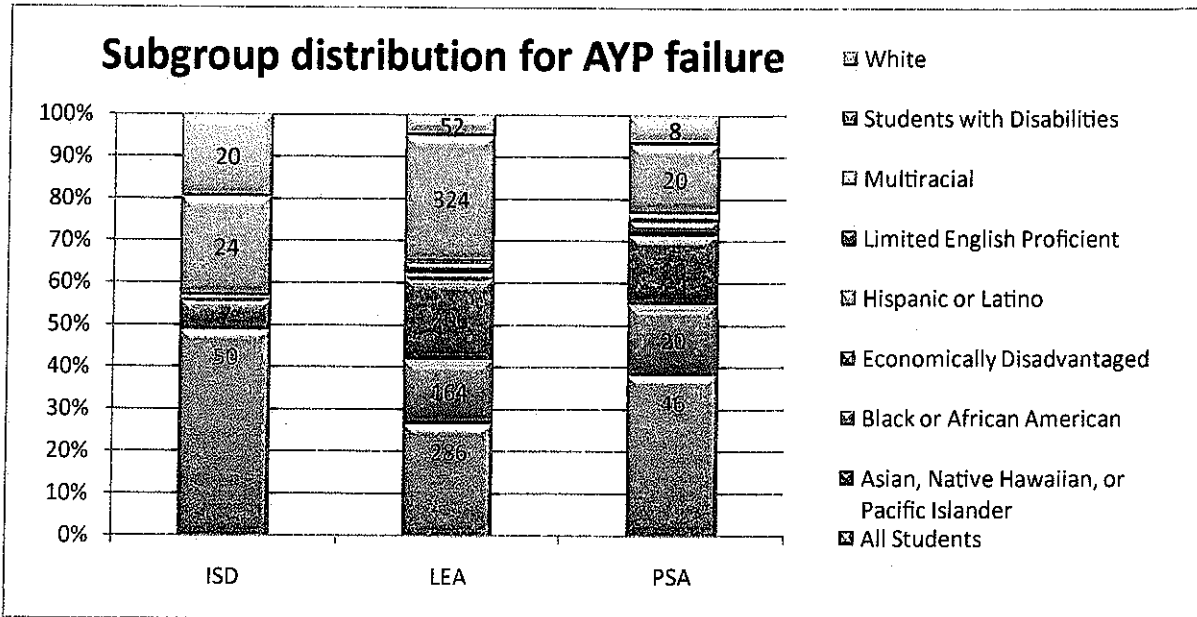
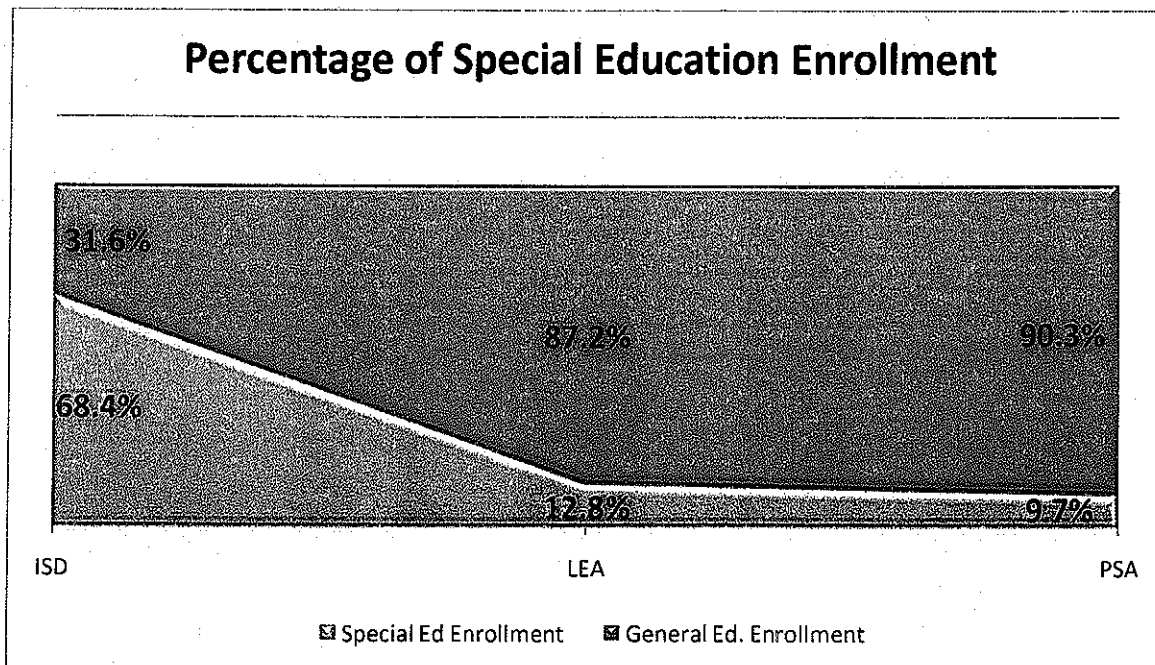


Table 14: As choice options expand, particularly among PSAs, the special needs community must continue to be served. PSAs serve 32% fewer students with special needs. As noted above. These students are the leading source of AYP failure among LEAs. Continuation of this trend is unfavorable to the special needs families of Michigan, particularly if student choice is mandated. Further, if NCLB/AYP will serve as the basis for taxpayer return, this disparity must be acknowledged.



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Table 15: Choice undoubtedly serves the needs and interest of the individual student, an admirable goal. However, in Proposal A as the funding follows the student, the aftermath of significant student loss can devastate budgets. DPS has been particularly hard hit and infamously has a operating deficit in excess of \$300M. Many other urban districts are on the same path. Five of these twenty districts are in a deficit position.

**Top 20 Michigan School District most adversely affected by greater student outflow than inflow on
account of School of Choice and Charter School Choice in Fall 2010**

District Name	Fall 2010 Inbound Choice based Students	Fall 2010 Outbound Choice based Students	Fall 2010 Choice based Student Delta	Estimated \$ Effect (at \$7k per pupil)
Detroit City School District*	1,152	54,211	(53,059)	(\$371,411,740)
Grand Rapids Public Schools	1,447	8,221	(6,774)	(\$47,418,420)
Flint City School District	195	6,901	(6,706)	(\$46,940,320)
Pontiac City School District*	93	5,247	(5,153)	(\$36,071,350)
Lansing Public School District	408	4,611	(4,203)	(\$29,419,110)
Benton Harbor Area Schools*	9	2,855	(2,845)	(\$19,916,610)
Taylor School District	247	3,035	(2,788)	(\$19,516,140)
Jackson Public Schools	344	2,931	(2,587)	(\$18,108,230)
East Detroit Public Schools*	93	2,609	(2,516)	(\$17,612,630)
Saginaw City School District	1,042	3,550	(2,507)	(\$17,551,100)
Dearborn City School District	123	2,451	(2,328)	(\$16,295,230)
Battle Creek Public Schools	347	2,449	(2,102)	(\$14,715,260)
Southfield Public School District	356	2,385	(2,029)	(\$14,201,110)
Kentwood Public Schools	392	2,134	(1,742)	(\$12,192,390)
Lincoln Park Public Schools	331	2,062	(1,730)	(\$12,113,290)
Bay City School District	381	1,921	(1,540)	(\$10,783,150)
Hamtramck Public Schools*	380	1,886	(1,507)	(\$10,546,060)
West Ottawa Public Schools	201	1,622	(1,421)	(\$9,946,860)
Port Huron Area School District	106	1,505	(1,399)	(\$9,790,270)
Plymouth-Canton Schools	84	1,444	(1,360)	(\$9,521,890)

**Indicates the district is in deficit.*

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Table 16: PSA enrollment has exploded and these LEAs and PSAs have yielded the greatest financial benefit from School of Choice programs. Four LEAs make this list. Notably the largest LEA benefactor, West Bloomfield School District, has experienced significant financial hardship despite the large influx of school of choice students.

Top 20 Michigan School Districts, Public School Academies, or ISD's benefitting by greater student inflow than outflow on account of School of Choice and Charter School Choice in Fall 2010

District Name	Fall 2010 Inbound Choice based Students	Fall 2010 Outbound Choice based Students	Fall 2010 Choice based Student Delta	Estimated \$ Effect (at \$7k per pupil)
Chandler Park Academy	2,309		2,309	\$16,163,000
Cesar Chavez Academy	2,142		2,142	\$14,994,000
Old Redford Academy	1,978		1,978	\$13,846,350
Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences	1,868		1,868	\$13,076,000
University Preparatory Academy	1,711		1,711	\$11,977,000
West Bloomfield School District	1,913	220	1,694	\$11,856,950
Summit Academy North	1,660		1,660	\$11,622,520
Hazel Park City School District	2,019	406	1,613	\$11,290,160
Macomb ISD	1,590		1,590	\$11,130,770
Bradford Academy	1,535		1,535	\$10,745,000
Pontiac Academy for Excellence	1,375		1,375	\$9,624,790
Star International Academy	1,315		1,315	\$9,205,000
Advanced Technology Academy	1,247		1,247	\$8,729,000
Plymouth Educational Center	1,245		1,245	\$8,715,000
Marvin L. Winans Academy of Perform Arts	1,238		1,238	\$8,666,000
International Academy of Flint	1,206		1,206	\$8,442,000
Berkley School District	1,332	142	1,190	\$8,332,590
Grand Traverse Academy	1,162		1,162	\$8,135,190
Edison Public School Academy	1,142		1,142	\$7,994,000
Ferndale Public Schools	1,806	667	1,140	\$7,978,110

August 31, 2011

THE GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Grosse Pointe, Michigan

AGENDA NUMBER & TITLE:**IV. I. Approval of Resolution on Local Control of Schools****BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The State of Michigan's School Aid Act establishes provisions to allow Local Education Authorities (LEA's, aka public school districts) to enroll students who do not live within their legal boundary. These provisions are colloquially referred to as School of Choice (SoC). Since 1996, Michigan LEA's have had this option – executable by annual action by the locally elected school board. This has proven to be an attractive option for LEA's that, in accordance with Proposal A, reap the financial benefit of incremental student enrollment by virtue of receiving the state Foundation Allowance. SoC allows districts a means to increase their enrollment by attracting students beyond their geographic boundary.

Given the financial constraints affecting LEA's, this has proven to be an attractive option:

- Of the state's 552 LEA's, 450 (82%) choose to participate in SoC. 102 (18%) do not. GPPSS is among the 18%.
- Student enrollment within SoC districts represents 71% of the state's total K-12 student population.
- Non-SOC student enrollment is 21%.
- 8% are charter school students.
- Of the above mentioned 71% enrolled in SoC school districts, 8.2% are enrolled by virtue of their participation in SoC.
- 6.3% of all statewide LEA students attend a school outside their home district by virtue of SoC.

In his "Special Message on Education Reform" delivered in April, Governor Snyder promised to bring forward, among other things, legislation that would no longer allow LEA's to opt-out of SoC. Senate Education Committee Chairman Phil Pavlov (R – St. Clair) plans to introduce such a bill, among several other education reform bills, on September 7th.

The Resolution before the Board tonight is **not** aimed to argue against the relative merits of SoC in a broad sense. The statistics clearly demonstrate it to be an attractive option for many districts. The summary point is that while most districts opt into SoC, the net result is a fairly limited participation rate among students (only 6.3% statewide). Even those schools that do opt into SoC, many have established their own guidelines and policies to limit SoC enrollment. Gov. Snyder's proposal threatens both parties in terms of choosing to participate in the first place and the degree of participation (e.g. many districts open very few spots annually and often then only in lower elementary).

Local control is the bigger issue. SoC is not inherently bad policy, but rather it is an option heretofore locally determined based on local considerations made by locally elected officials. Gov. Snyder's proposal threatens the ability of LEA's to make choices on SoC, and whatever may follow, at the local level. The Resolution on Local Control is presented as a means to send a clear message to Gov. Snyder and other state and municipal officials that further encroachment by Lansing into local policy matters is a trend we seek to no longer perpetuate.

REQUEST:

That the Board of Education approve the attached resolution and that, upon approval, a copy be sent to the Governor and other state and municipal officials.

Submitted by:
Brendan Walsh
August 22, 2011

9/19/2011
5:00 PM

A RESOLUTION OF THE GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, in accordance with the State School Aid Act, it has long been left to the discretion Local Education Authorities (LEA's) in the state of Michigan to locally determine, by act of the duly elected Board of Education, whether to accept non-resident students to attend their public schools by participating in the state's School of Choice program and

WHEREAS Michigan Governor Rick Snyder in his "Special Message on Education Reform" delivered on April 27, 2011 unequivocally stated that he intends to propose legislation that will no longer allow public school districts in the state of Michigan to opt out of participating in the School of Choice program and

WHEREAS the citizens of the Grosse Pointe Public School System have chosen to make personal sacrifices, including but not limited to investing in premium housing stock, approving in elections to levy upon themselves a Hold Harmless millage and additional millages to maintain and improve the physical plants and other infrastructure in order to establish and maintain an optimal learning environment for the youth of our community and

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System has never chosen to participate in the Schools of Choice program in large part to protect and respect these incremental investments made by our citizens to directly benefit our students and

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System believes that local representation of local concerns regarding policy decisions affecting the educational well-being of our students and the broader well-being of our community is a fundamental tenet of public education in the United States of America and

WHEREAS this contemplated legislation and the stated position of the Governor represents further elimination of the local community's authority, granted by the State School Aid Act, to make decisions at the local level after taking into consideration factors unique to their individual circumstances and representing the will of the local community to make decisions in the best interests of our students therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System requests that Governor Snyder eliminate verbiage from proposed legislation, or legislation being developed, relating to a mandate for Schools of Choice or further erosion of local decision making of Michigan Local Education Authorities, and that a copy of this resolution be immediately provided to the Governor, the legislative leaders of the State House and Senate, all members of the State House and Senate Education Committees, the State Attorney General, the current State Representative and Senator representing all the Grosse Pointe communities and City of Harper Woods.

Judy Gafa, Secretary
Grosse Pointe Public School Board of Education

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SCHOOL OF CHOICE MANDATE

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2011, Governor Rick Snyder published his plan for Education Reform to the Michigan Legislature, specifically "Any Time, Any Place, Any Pace", proposing legislation to include a provision for "schools of choice" and will no longer allow school districts to opt out of accepting out-of-district students;

WHEREAS, the Grosse Pointe communities have already been financially, legislatively, and culturally affected by the redistricting map signed by Governor Snyder on August 9, 2011, and will further dilute the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods communities influence when addressing common school interests of the Grosse Pointe Public School System;

WHEREAS, the Grosse Pointe Public Schools taxpayers take pride in our schools and voted for increased millages to provide a high-level curriculum and facilities to our students, and to enact school of choice would be an injustice to community taxpayers;

WHEREAS, students whose parents are taxpayers stand the chance of being bumped from their ability to participate in extracurricular programs such as athletics and clubs by students whose parents do not pay taxes to the district;

WHEREAS, it is due to local control that Grosse Pointe Public Schools has established high standards for education through the efforts of its Board of Education, Administration, teachers, staff, parent-boosters, and students who fully vest themselves into the community by giving of their time for extracurricular activities, fund raising, and community service events;

WHEREAS, mandatory schools of choice may negatively affect graduation ratios and test scores;

AND, WHEREAS, proposed legislation to implement mandatory schools of choice is being considered by the State Legislature and the City of Grosse Pointe is now taking a proactive step in voicing opposition to the legislation from Lansing that would mandate school of choice to all Michigan districts and legislation that interferes with local control of our schools;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Grosse Pointe urges Governor Snyder and the State of Michigan Legislature to oppose mandated schools of choice and loss of local control of schools, and that a copy of this resolution be immediately provided to the Governor, the legislative leaders of the State House and Senate, the current State Representative and Senator representing the Grosse Pointes, and the Grosse Pointe Public Schools Board of Education.

AYES: Boettcher, Parthum, Stempfle, Stevens, Walsh, Weipert, Mayor Scrace
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted on September 19, 2011.

I, Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk of the City of Grosse Pointe, do hereby certify that this resolution is a true and exact copy of the action taken by the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe on September 19, 2011, as it appears in the City Council minute books on file in my office.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the City of Grosse Pointe on September 20, 2011.



JULIE E. ARTHURS
City Clerk

8
Loving
Jensen

City of Grosse Pointe Farms

Proposed Resolution In Opposition To School Of Choice Mandate

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2011, Governor Rick Snyder published his plan for Education Reform to the Michigan Legislature, specifically "Any Time, Any Place, Any Way, Any Pace", proposing legislation to include a provision for "schools of choice" and will no longer allow school districts to opt out of accepting out-of-district students;

WHEREAS, the Grosse Pointe Public Schools taxpayers take pride in our schools and voted for increased millage to provide a high-level curriculum to our students, and to enact school of choice would be an injustice to community taxpayers;

WHEREAS, the Grosse Pointe taxpayers are paying nearly \$7 million dollars a year in taxes through approved sinking fund and other bond issues for the capital improvements and expansions of its schools for its residents (debts that are NOT taxable to out-of-district families or reimbursable from the State);

WHEREAS, tax-paying students stand the chance of being bumped from their ability to participate in extracurricular programs such as athletics and other clubs because of limited availability;

WHEREAS, it is because of local control that has established high standards for education through the efforts of its Board of Directors, Administration, teachers, staff, parent-boosters, and students who fully vest themselves into the community by giving of their time for extracurricular activities, fund raising, and community service events;

WHEREAS, a mandated participation in school of choice may necessitate a lower-standard curriculum to ensure graduate ratios;

AND, WHEREAS, a proposed House Bill is anticipated to be drafted and presented to the legislature in fall of 2011 that would mandate schools of choice in all Michigan school districts and that such legislation would further interfere with local control of our schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Grosse Pointe Farms objects to any legislation mandating that every school district become a school of choice district, or that any legislation be introduced that further eliminates local control of schools, and that a copy of this resolution be immediately provided to the Governor, the legislative leaders of the State House and Senate, the current State Representative and Senator representing the Grosse Pointes, Grosse Pointe Public Schools Board of Education, all Grosse Pointe communities and City of Harper Woods.

City of Grosse Pointe Woods

Resolution

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SCHOOL OF CHOICE MANDATE

At a rescheduled meeting of the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council held on Monday, August 15, 2011, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2011, Governor Rick Snyder published his plan for Education Reform to the Michigan Legislature, specifically "Any Time, Any Place, Any Way, Any Pace", proposing legislation to include a provision for "schools of choice" and will no longer allow school districts to opt out of accepting out-of-district students;

WHEREAS, the Grosse Pointe communities have already been financially, legislatively, and culturally affected by the redistricting map signed by Governor Snyder on Tuesday, August 9, 2011, and will further dilute the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods communities influence when addressing common school interests of the Grosse Pointe Public School System;

WHEREAS, the Grosse Pointe Public Schools taxpayers take pride in our schools and voted for increased millage to provide a high-level curriculum to our students, and to enact school of choice would be an injustice to community taxpayers;

WHEREAS, tax-paying students stand the chance of being bumped from their ability to participate in extracurricular programs such as athletics and clubs;

WHEREAS, it is due to local control that has established high standards for education through the efforts of its Board of Directors, Administration, teachers, staff, parent-boosters, and students who fully vest themselves into the community by giving of their time for extracurricular activities, fund raising, and community service events;

WHEREAS, school of choice may necessitate a lower-standard curriculum to ensure graduate ratios;

AND, WHEREAS, a proposed House Bill is anticipated to be drafted and presented to the legislature in fall of 2011 and the City of Grosse Pointe Woods is taking a proactive approach by voicing opposition now to the anticipated proposed legislation from Lansing that would mandate school of choice to all Michigan districts and legislation that interferes with local control of our schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Grosse Pointe Woods requests that Governor Snyder eliminate verbiage from proposed legislation relating to a mandate for schools of choice or eliminating local control of schools, and that a copy of this resolution be immediately provided to the Governor, the legislative leaders of the State House and Senate, the current State Representative and Senator representing the Grosse Pointes, Grosse Pointe Public Schools Board of Education, all Grosse Pointe communities and City of Harper Woods.

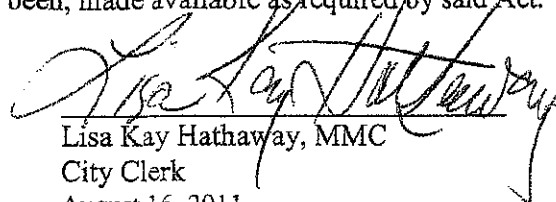
AYES: Bryant, Granger, Howle, Ketels, McConaghy, Novitke, Sucher

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATION

I, Lisa Kay Hathaway, Clerk of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, do hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Council on August 15, 2011, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be, or have been, made available as required by said Act.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lisa Kay Hathaway", is written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Kay Hathaway, MMC

City Clerk

August 16, 2011